ing the goal of national greatness." Twenty years have passed since the above was written, and since then improvement has marched through the metropolis with giant strides, swelling her dimensions and multiplying her inhabitants, and still we appear as far as ever from the goal of our greatness. West, north, east, and south, we see London still stretching forth its thousand arms, swallowing up every villa in its environs, and compassing every obstacle which it cannot overcome; and railways, as so many main arteries, diverging on every side from the great seat of life, must and will give additional impetus to its trade and commerce, and contribute to swell out still further its extent and population. As the powers of the human mind become developed, as improvement keeps pace with invention, as wealth increases with the increase of our wants and requirements, so we find the sting of pestilence and disease lose its force. Time and space annihilated, and apparent impossibilities accomplished, we find the means of national, intellectual, and physical enjoyment awaiting our disposal.

In the midst of increasing prosperity and the almost universal pursuit of wealth by the shortest possible road, it is gratifying to find that in the rage for improvement, the poor are not quite forgotten; that the most considerate attention is being paid to the drainage and ventilation of this and other large cities, and the dwellings of the poor are not altogether overlooked: the new Buildings Act will go far to mitigate the sufferings of the labouring classes by disposing them in healthy and commodious dwellings, and ere long the exertions of philanthropy will go much further in removing those moral plague-spots wherein poverty and crime are necessarily associated, cursed with a tainted atmosphere and the society of each other. St. Giles's, once the impenetrable sanctuary for the Alsatian, the highwayman, and the street brawler, noted for its filth and squalid wretchedness, is gradually disappearing; but, unless timely means are taken, the evil is only removed to another quarter of the metropolis, not eradicated; it is therefore the bounden duty of the legislature to apply more effectual measures for enforcing cleanliness, ventilation, and drainage in all crowded places. Private benevolence may mitigate, but it cannot eradicate the evil. Baths and wash-houses will do much towards purifying these abodes of vice and wretchedness, education will do much more, but nothing permanent can be expected until the means of an honest living are placed at every man's disposal. Many means to attain ends so truly desirable are devised in the present day, but political quackery is too apt to usurp the seat of Christian benevolence, and the millions must still suffer on until property, under its various forms, awakens to a sense of its duties; then, indeed, London will have reached the goal of its greatness and prosperity.

J. J. J. B.

IMPROVED DWELLINGS FOR THE WORKING CLASSES IN EDINBURGH.

The public will be gratified to learn that the preliminary measures are in progress for calling a public meeting with the design of constituting a sanatory council, or association for the promotion of public health in our city. The state of the Old Town is now such that some vigorous effort is certainly necessary, in order to render it a more fitting residence for such of the middle and working classes as have their abode in it. There is a clamant need in particular for improved dwellings for the working classes, and, indeed, for an extension of the number of houses devoted to their accommodation, as it is found at present nearly impossible for a working man to obtain such a dwelling as he requires, and could well pay for. The first object now in view is to form a standing council of gentlemen competent to ascertain and judge of measures desirable for the public health, which they shall endeavour to promote by all means within their power. Amongst their duties will be that of dealing with private parties, individually, or joint-stock companies, who may be disposed to build new houses for the working classes, on improved principles, giving to such parties the benefit of their authority and sanction, provided that they follow the proper rules as to the local arrangement of their buildings, the needful accommodations, drainage, sewerage, and other requisites. It is conceived that speculations of this kind may obtain favour amongst capitalists, as it can be shewn that the required outlay may make a good return, even while tenants are better and more cheaply accommodated than at present, if only care be taken to keep up the character of the new buildings in moral and physical respects, which it is by no means beyond the power of prudent regulation to accomplish. The gentlemen, with whom this movement originates, contemplate both the erection of buildings in open suburban situations, and the substitution of improved dwellings for masses of the older and more ruinous parts of the city. In every case there will be due care taken to provide open-air spaces for the recreation of children, apart from contaminating street influences; general accommodation for washing may also be furnished, if, upon due deliberation, thought advisable; ventilation, the supply of water, and arrangements for the removal of all kinds of refuse, will be special objects; in short, while no extravagant views of any kind are entertained, it is believed, that, by good practical arrangements, and working upon a large instead of a narrow scale, the working classes may be supplied with domestic accommodations, comprehending a large amount of comfort, favourable to, instead of destructive of health; and lastly, but not least, promotive of their moral interests, seeing that a home which we can love and delight in is, by universal acknowledgment, the first requisite to the virtues.—*Scotsman.*

Obituary.

THE LATE ALFRED BARTHOLOMEW, ESQ., F.S.A.

In accordance with the promise contained in our last number, we now proceed to lay before our readers some notice of the life and works of this gentleman, whose death took place on the 2nd day of the present month, in the midst of a career of usefulness, and at the very time that a life of untiring zeal, self-denial, and study, had apparently placed within his grasp, at no distant period, complete success in this world; which, however, it has pleased the all-wise Arbiter of our fates he should never enjoy.

Mr. Bartholomew was born in London on the 28th of March, 1801, and although he had acquired at school only that moderate degree of education which usually falls to the lot of those amongst the middle ranks of society who are not destined for one of the learned professions, his early-developed devotion to geometry and science in general determined his father to bring him up to the profession of an architect, and he was therefore articled to Mr. J. H. Good, then of Hatton Garden (a former pupil of Sir John Soane), now the surveyor to some of her Majesty's palaces, and to the Commissioners for Building New Churches, &c.

Mr. Bartholomew's destiny being thus fixed, he applied himself to the study of his profession, as well as to other congenial pursuits, with all the energy that was inseparable from his character: up early in the morning during his pupilage, he employed himself in carefully measuring and delineating, amongst other buildings, the most beautiful parts of the Bank of England, with a reverence for Soane, to whom, by his connection with Mr. Good, he seemed in some sort to claim kindred.

Perspective, whilst he was under articles, received, as it always should do, the careful study of the aspirant; and having in this respect acquired the requisite proficiency, he was called upon to communicate it to the younger branches of a noble family, where he received the first pecuniary gratification that resulted to him from the studies to which he had devoted himself.

Architecture, however, although apparently the *all-absorbing* subject, did not entirely engross him; amidst an attention to it which appeared to be undivided, he yet found time for the acquisition of several languages, and compiled, unknown to any, a new version of the Psalms, which was published in the year 1831, under the title of "Sacred Lyrics, being an attempt to render the psalms of David more applicable to parochial psalmody."

This work, a labour of love, contains strains of the sweetest character, and occasionally the sublime pathos of the original appears through its English dress with a force and beauty but little diminished (and this is saying *much*) by the change into our own language; and although containing some inequalities, yet, on the whole, as far exceeds the general tameness of Nicholas Brady and Nahum Tate as their version stood above the antiquated dulness of Sternhold and Hopkins. Still, and though warmly praised by nearly the whole bench of bishops, in complimentary letters to the author, it has yet made no way in public use.

After the publication of the Psalms, Mr. Bartholomew's literary labours appear to have been more peculiarly devoted to his profession, and particularly to recording from time to time the thoughts ultimately embodied by him in his "Specifications for Practical Architecture," which work, displaying, as it does, some singularities and blemishes, perhaps the too common accompaniment of genius, may be studied with advantage by every member of the profession, and is calculated to effect much good. It cannot fail to become a standard book.

Besides the "Specifications," Mr. Bartholomew is the author of "Hints relative to the Construction of Fire-proof Buildings," (very favourably reviewed in the *Gentleman's Magazine*), and of various fugitive papers that have from time to time appeared before the public, as well of a professional as of a non-professional character. He has left uncompleted numerous sketches of a miscellaneous nature, full of ability, but not fitted for publication. His leading articles as editor of this journal during the past year are before the public, and have received favourable judgment, as evinced by the increased circulation of the periodical during his connection with it.

Amongst the most prominent objects of Mr. Bartholomew's thoughts was Gothic Architecture, in the study of which he was enthusiastic; and hence in a great measure (prompted by his veneration for those itinerant architects, to whose genius we owe the magnificence and beauty of our Gothic cathedrals) arose his zeal in favour of the society known as "Freemasons of the Church, for the recovery, maintenance, and furtherance of the true principles and practice of architecture," which was commenced by him.

Few men are better acquainted than he was with either the old or the new Building Act, and with regard to the latter, he had frequent correspondence with the Earl of Lincoln whilst it was being framed and carried through Parliament; his last work was to correct the proofs of his "Cyclopædia of the New Metropolitan Building Act," upon which he bestowed the utmost labour and attention. His canvass for the district surveyorship of Hornsey, to which he was elected by a very large majority only a few weeks ago, appears to have brought upon him an attack of rheumatic gout and fever, but through this his physicians fully expected him to struggle; taking cold, however, bronchitis resulted, which unhappily proved but too fatal.

His brother, Mr. Valentine Bartholomew, holds the appointment of Flower Painter to her Majesty, and is well known as a most able artist in his particular department.

New Church at South Shields.—The foundation-stone of this church was laid by Robert Ingham, Esq., of Weston, on the 26th ult. It is arranged to receive a congregation of 800, and the plans have been so skilfully designed by Mr. Salvin, the architect, and the execution of the work by Mr. Alderson is to be of so substantial a character, that accommodation may be added for a larger number when required. The church is intended to be ready for divine service on the 1st of June next.—*Newcastle Journal.*

Keswick Church.—This church is about to undergo a general alteration and repair at the estimated cost of upwards of 3,000*l.*, which will be laid out for that purpose by a private gentleman, J. Stranger, Esq., of the Dovecot, Keswick. The same gentleman some time ago built a new school for the benefit of the town which cost upwards of 1,000*l.* In Keswick church-yard lie the remains of the late Dr. Southey, poet-laureate.—*Westmoreland Gazette.*

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